Cultivation of herbal plants

†654. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to encourage the cultivation of herbal plants in the country in view of increasing demand of ayurvedic medicines abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether some Union Ministries and State Governments have also been included in this programme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has set up Medicinal Plants Board to look after policy formulation, coordination with Ministries/Departments, ensuring sustained availability of medicinal plants and to coordinate all matters relating to their development and sustainable use. The Board has implemented Contractual Farming Scheme under which financial assistance @ 30% of the project cost, maximum upto Rs. 9.00 lacs, is provided to farmers/growers for cultivation of identified medicinal plants.

The Board is headed by Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and has representatives of Union Ministries concerned and State Governments as members. State level Boards have also been set up in 27 States and 5 UTs to coordinate matters at State/UT level.

PHCs in Punjab

655. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Primary Health Centres functioning in Hoshiarpur District of Punjab;

(b) whether these Centres are adequate to meet the need of general public of the District; and

(c) whether Government proposes to open new centres there in near future?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.